

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 57 – HB 667**

February 16, 2009

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires counties with populations over 100,000 according to the 2010 and subsequent censuses to have at least three full-time General Sessions judges.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$200,000/  
One-Time/FY11-12\*  
Exceeds \$1,492,400/Recurring/  
FY11-12 and Succeeding Years\***

**Assumptions:**

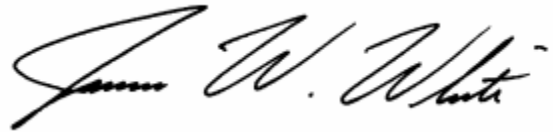
- According to the Comptroller and the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS), estimating that each county's population will grow from the 2000 census to the 2010 census by the same percentage growth as from the 1990 census to the 2000 census, Bradley, Madison, Sumner, Washington, and Williamson counties will hire an additional judge after the 2010 census.
- The minimum salary for class one General Sessions judges is currently \$140,785, in addition to benefits of approximately 25 percent (\$35,196), for a total compensation of \$175,981.
- The need for support staff and supplies will vary from county to county, but is expected to include a judge's administrative assistant, a bailiff, and a court clerk's assistant. These costs are expected to be approximately \$122,500 per county (three salaries at \$30,000 + 25% benefits at \$7,500 + \$10,000 in office supplies and miscellaneous expenses = \$122,500).
- At least two counties will require additional office and courtroom space. This cost is expected to be at least \$100,000 per county, for a one-time increase in local expenditures exceeding \$200,000.
- Local government expenditures will increase at least \$1,492,405 beginning in FY 11-12 [(\$175,981 total judge's compensation + \$122,500 support staff and supplies = \$298,481) x 5 judges = \$1,492,405].

- These costs do not include any additional district attorney or public defender positions because their creation is not authorized by this bill.
- The expenditures will not be incurred until FY11-12 because the 2010 census must be completed and certified before the judges are added.

\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kmc